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# K-12 Education

## 2003 Legislative Session Summary of Legislation Related to K-12 Education

Prepared by:

**OPI**

Office of Public Instruction



Montana Association of Business Officials



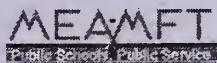
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**PLEASE NOTE:** This document contains brief summaries of bills relating to K-12 education that were considered by the Montana Legislature during the 2003 regular session. The summaries are not offered as legal advice nor as a definitive interpretation of these bills. For a more comprehensive understanding of these laws, please consult the original legislation and/or one of the associations that participated in developing these summaries. This document can be found on the web at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/superintendent/2003LegSummary.pdf>  
Each bill is linked to the Legislative Services electronic bill status system.



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## **Accreditation/Curriculum**

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**HB 78            Gary Branae**

**Trustees to determine conduct of school on Saturdays in emergency**

**Chapter Number: 21                      Effective Date: 2/13/03**

HB 78 transfers the responsibility for determining when school can be conducted on a Saturday from the State Superintendent to the Board of Trustees of the school district.

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**HB 285            Roy Brown**

**Revise laws related to military status**

**Chapter Number: 271                      Effective Date: 4/9/2003**

HB 285 provides that military recruiters have the same access to student records as other recruiting groups and organizations. This access includes directory information that may be released about students pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

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**HB 366            Paul Clark**

**Certain school district trustees to meet quarterly**

**Chapter Number: 86                      Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

HB 366 allows any school district, other than a first class elementary district, to hold quarterly meetings rather than specifying the months the meetings must be held.

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**HB 542            Eve Franklin**

**Revise occupational therapy practice laws**

**Chapter Number: 101                      Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

HB 542 revises the definition of occupational therapy as a therapeutic goal-directed activity addressing disease or disorders that interfere with a person's ability to function independently in daily life. It adds a definition of occupational therapy assistant to include a licensed person who works under the general supervision of an occupational therapist.

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**HJ 8                Carol Juneau**

**Study drop-out issues with regard to Indian students**

**Chapter Number: N/A                      Effective Date: N/A**

Montana's American Indian students drop out of public schools at an average rate of 10.4%, which is more than twice the dropout rate of 4.2% for all Montana students. HJ 8 requested the Legislative Council to designate an interim committee to

work in collaboration with the Board of Public Education, the Board of Regents, the Office of Public Instruction, the Interagency Coordinating Council, local school districts, tribal education departments, and educational organizations throughout the state to gather information relating to the dropout rates, graduation rates, and at-risk factors among American Indian students in Montana's public schools; to develop a strategic state plan to reduce the dropout rate among all students; and report findings of the study and recommendations to the 59th legislature. The objective of this study is to break the cycle of at-risk factors and significantly reduce the dropout rate, while increasing the graduation rate, among Montana's American Indian students. Legislative Council assigned HJ 8 to the State-Tribal Relations (STR) Committee.

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**HJ 10            Bob Lawson**

**Personal finance education in public schools**

**Chapter Number: N/A**

**Effective Date: N/A**

HJ 10 is a resolution urging the Board of Public Education to integrate the principles of basic personal finance into the content and performance standards established for Montana's public schools and urging the boards of trustees of Montana's school districts to implement the standards into their school curricula.

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**HJ 36            Jeff Pattison**

**Urge U.S. Supreme Court to overturn Pledge of Allegiance ruling**

**Chapter Number: N/A**

**Effective Date: N/A**

The Senate and House of Representatives passed a joint resolution urging the United States Supreme Court to overturn the decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals finding that a teacher-led recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the statute inserting the words "under God" into the Pledge of Allegiance violated the establishment clause contained in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

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**SB 81            Mike Cooney**

**Honorary diplomas for certain veterans**

**Chapter Number: 171**

**Effective Date: 3/28/2003**

SB 81 authorizes the Superintendent of Public Instruction to award honorary diplomas to eligible current or former Montana residents who did not receive diplomas due to military service during World War II, the Korean War or Vietnam War.

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**SB 380           Keith Bales**

**Authorize formation of student banks**

**Chapter Number: 340**

**Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

SB 380 authorizes the trustees of a high school or K-12 school district to establish a student financial institution at a high school. A "student financial institution" is defined as a financial institution that:



- (a) is operated as a high school education program;
- (b) is adopted by a school district board of trustees;
- (c) is advised by but not owned by one or more state-chartered or federally chartered financial institutions, limited to a state or national bank, a state or federal savings and loan association, a trust company, an investment company, or a state or federal credit union;
- (d) is located on property owned by a high school district or a K-12 school district;
- (e) has as its customers only those students who are enrolled in the high school in which the institution is located; and
- (f) has a written commitment from the school district board of trustees guaranteeing reimbursement of any depositor's funds that are lost due to insolvency of the student financial institution.

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**SJ 2      Don Ryan**

**Urge healthy school nutrition and physical activity**

**Chapter Number: N/A**

**Effective Date: N/A**

SJ 2 urges the Montana legislature to support a healthy school environment by urging school districts to offer nutritious food and beverage choices and by providing opportunities for physical activity. The Superintendent of Public Instruction is to distribute a copy of the resolution to every school district in Montana.

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## **Failed Legislation -- Accreditation/Curriculum**

**HB 274 Carol Juneau**

Increase compulsory attendance  
to age 18

**HB 382 Jonathan Windy Boy**

Repeal "English only" law

**HB 449 Tom Facey**

District to adopt harassment,  
Intimidation, or bullying policy

**HB 572 Dave Lewis**

Braille teaching available in schools

**HB 694 John Sinrud**

Revise nondisclosure of library records  
laws

**HB 704 Dave Kasten**

Authorize establishment of charter  
schools and charter school districts

**SB 44 Jerry O'Neil**

Remove constitutional provision on  
equality of educational opportunity

**SB 96 Sam Kitzenberg**

Eliminate requirement for 180 school  
days

**SB 205 John Cobb**

Limit ability of school districts to join  
certain organizations

**SB 276 Don Ryan**

Require state assessment test for non-  
public schools/home schools

**SB 278 Edward Butcher**

Require credit for certain post-secondary courses

**SB 310 Bill Glaser**

Revocation of accreditation in certain instances

**SJ 20 Dale Mahlum**

Urge high schools to offer instruction in consumer education

**SB 280 Edward Butcher**

Limit remedial classes to certain MUS units

**SB 373 Rick Laible**

Nonpublic schools allowed in certain organizations

**SJ 28 John Bohlinger**

Interim study on school district organization



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# Appropriations

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**HB 2            Dave Lewis**  
**General appropriations act**  
**Chapter Number: 612**

**Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

HB 2 contains the majority of state agency appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2003. The appropriations include approximately \$17 million in each of the next two fiscal years for Office of Public Instruction (OPI) operations and technical assistance to schools, and approximately \$640 million each year for distributions of state and federal aid to local education agencies. In addition to the appropriations in HB 2, OPI is statutorily appropriated \$92 million from the state guarantee account for K-12 BASE aid payments to schools.

For K-12 education, HB 2:

- ◆ Increases K-12 BASE aid by \$6.3 million in FY2004 and by \$14.2 million in FY2005 to implement the various pieces of legislation that affect the amount of K-12 BASE aid, and decreases it by \$3.2 million in FY2004 and by \$11.9 million in FY2005 due to declining enrollments.
- ◆ Increases the appropriation for state transportation aid payments to schools by \$1.7 million each year to implement changes to the funding formula in SB 424.
- ◆ Increases the state payment for special education costs in FY2005 by \$1.5 million.
- ◆ Increases the biennial appropriation for school facility payments to schools by \$8 million. The increase is a result of changes to the funding formula adopted in SB 424.
- ◆ Appropriates a biennial increase of more than \$65 million for payments to local education agencies from existing, on-going federal grants. The increase is due in part to the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001" that reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.
- ◆ Decreases the appropriation for HB 124 block grants to schools and counties by \$16.2 million in FY2004 and by \$16.4 in FY2005 to reflect the diversion of block grants adopted in SB 424 and the adjustments in SB 454.
- ◆ Appropriates payments to local education agencies from five new federal grants totaling \$13.1 million for the 2005 biennium. The five new grants are the Community Service Grant Program, Character Education, Reading First, REI/Rural Low Income Schools, and Title IV 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Grants.

- ◆ Provides no funding for the school flexibility fund, but does provide up to \$5 million in appropriation authority in the event any grants can be identified that are designated for school district staff recruitment, retention or retirement incentives.
- ◆ Schools will receive state technology fund grants again in FY2005. The amount distributed to schools will depend on the volume and price of timber harvested from state school trust lands.

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**HB 3                      John Brueggeman**  
**Supplemental appropriations bill**  
**Chapter Number: 494                      Effective Date: 4/25/2003**

HB 3 gives the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) additional appropriation authority to complete FY2003 K-12 BASE aid payments based on the budget data submitted to OPI by school districts and counties.

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**HB 429                      Dave Kasten**  
**Create property tax exemption study committee**  
**Chapter Number: 160                      Effective Date: 3/28/2003**

HB 429 establishes a committee to conduct a study of property tax exemptions and determine whether property tax exemptions contribute to or impede the goal of an equitable property tax system. The committee is directed to make recommendations to the Governor and the legislature as to whether existing property tax exemption laws should be modified or repealed in order to achieve the goal of an equitable property tax system. The committee is composed of ten members, one of whom must be a representative of K-12 public schools appointed by the Governor. The committee will be attached to the Department of Revenue for administrative purposes. The study is funded with a \$6,000 general fund appropriation.

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**HB 736                      Roy Brown**  
**K-12 public school renewal commission**  
**Chapter Number: 548                      Effective Date: 5/1/2003**

HB 736 establishes a public school renewal commission to propose reforms in the areas of the revenue available for public education; the structure of school district governance; the methods of funding public education; the role of state government in public education; and the role of the federal government in public education. Core membership of the renewal commission includes the Governor, the chair of the Board of Public Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the minority leader of the House, and the minority leader of the Senate. Core members may select a designee. In addition, the commission shall include representatives appointed by the Governor from 10-25 entities and a representative from the juvenile corrections division of the department of corrections. The renewal commission will submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Education and Local Government interim committee by



September 15, 2004. The Board of Public Education received a \$10,000 general fund appropriation for the commission beginning July 1, 2003. Donations will also be accepted for carrying out the duties of the renewal commission.

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**HJ 2            Ronald Devlin**

**Revenue estimating resolution**

**Chapter Number: N/A**

**Effective Date: N/A**

HJ 2 lists the actual and estimated revenues for all general fund and certain non-general fund state revenue sources for state fiscal years 2003 through 2005. The resolution articulates many of the economic assumptions that drive the revenue estimates. General fund revenues projections are shown below:

	<u>FY2003</u>	<u>FY2004</u>	<u>FY2005</u>
HJ 2 General Fund Revenues (millions)	\$1195.014	\$1241.443	\$1296.456
Legislative Impacts	<u>\$ 27.709</u>	<u>\$ 69.396</u>	<u>\$ 38.601</u>
Total General Fund Revenues	\$1222.723	\$1310.839	\$1335.057

A detailed description of the general fund and other non-general fund revenues can be found in the *Legislative Fiscal Report 2005 Biennium, Volume 2 – Revenue Estimates*. This report is produced by the Legislative Fiscal Division and can be found on the Legislative website at [http://leg.state.mt.us/css/fiscal/2005\\_biennium/fiscal\\_report.asp](http://leg.state.mt.us/css/fiscal/2005_biennium/fiscal_report.asp).

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**SB 41            Joe Tropila**

**Revise designation of school for deaf & blind**

**Chapter Number: 72**

**Effective Date: 3/17/2003**

SB 41 redefines the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind as a state-supported special school and eliminates use of the term "institution" in the definition.

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**SB 43            Joe Tropila**

**Make optional fee for services collected by deaf & blind school**

**Chapter Number: 74**

**Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

SB 43 drops the requirements and makes it optional that the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB) charge public schools or other responsible agencies for assistance received through the MSDB.



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**SB 202      Royal Johnson****Expand use of teacher certification fees****Chapter Number: 173****Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

SB 202 allows the Board of Public Education (BPE) to use a portion of the teacher certification fee for activities in support of the Board's constitutional and statutory duties. This gives the BPE additional flexibility in the use of the teacher certification fees it currently controls.

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**SB 407      Bob DePratu****Income tax reduction with revenue from limited sales tax****Chapter Number: 544****Effective Date: Sections 1-39, 47 & 49-62 - 4/30/03  
Sections 40-46 and 48 - 1/1/05**

SB 407 creates a sales and use tax of 3% on accommodations and campgrounds (effective June 1, 2003) and 4% on the base rental charge for rental vehicles (effective July 1, 2003). Lodging facilities and campgrounds are exempt from the tax until October 1, 2003 for contracts entered into prior to April 30, 2003 that provide for a guaranteed charge for accommodations or campgrounds. Sales and use tax revenue is deposited into the state general fund.

SB 407 makes several changes to the individual income tax laws.

- ◆ The legislation provides for a capital gains tax credit. An individual taxpayer is allowed a credit against individual income taxes in an amount equal to 1% of the taxpayer's net capital gains for tax years 2005 and 2006 and 2% of the taxpayer's net capital gains for tax years beginning after 2006. The credit may not exceed the taxpayer's income tax liability.
- ◆ SB 407 lowers the maximum tax rate to 6.9% on any taxable income in excess of \$13,900, effective January 1, 2005.
- ◆ Federal income tax deductibility is limited to \$5,000 for individuals or \$10,000 per married couple.
- ◆ A Montana resident is allowed a credit against the taxes imposed for the resident's distributive share of any income tax imposed by another state or country by a partnership of which the resident is a partner.

SB 407 raises the cigarette tax to 70 cents per pack effective May 1, 2003. The allocation of the cigarette taxes is as follows:

- ◆ 8.3% or \$2 million, whichever is greater, for state veteran's nursing homes (DPHHS);
- ◆ 4.3% to the long-range building program; and
- ◆ the remainder to the state general fund.

SB 407 is projected to generate an additional \$5.79 million for the state general fund in FY2003; \$40.54 million for the general fund in FY2004; and \$24.11 million in FY2005. The net increase to the state general fund is projected to be \$70.44 million for the 3-year period.

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**SB 485      John Cobb****Transfer some tobacco settlement proceeds to human services account****Chapter Number: 608****Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

SB 485 revises the allocation and use of approximately \$12 million (2005 biennium) of tobacco settlement proceeds to a prevention and stabilization account to be used by the Department of Public Health and Human Services to help fund health and human services. The bill also allows the use of the tobacco funds to provide state matching funds for the Medicaid program. The bill sunsets on June 30, 2005.

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**SJ 26      John Bohlinger****Urge just compensation for impact of federal land ownership on public education funding****Chapter Number: N/A****Effective Date: N/A**

SJ 26 was introduced at the request of the Senate Local Government Standing Committee. This joint resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives urges Congress to appropriate just compensation to the State of Montana for the impact of federal land ownership on the State's ability to fund public education. A copy of the resolution will be sent by the Secretary of State to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the Montana Congressional Delegation.

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## **Failed Legislation -- Appropriations**

**HB 19 Dave Kasten**

Generally revise state expenditure limits

**HB 74 Dave Lewis**

Appropriate coal trust funds for 2005 biennium

**HB 434 David Wanzenried**

Transfer money from state fund to general fund

**HB 495 Norma Bixby**

Appropriate money for American Indian studies

**HB 629 Jim Keane**

State Fund to transfer \$14 million in FY2004 and FY2005 to general fund

**HB 650 Christopher Harris**

Transfer \$90,000 from state fund to OPI for grant writing position

**SB 63 Corey Stapleton**

Transfer funds to offset school district reappropriation rather than reserve

**SB 405 Rick Laible**

Legislative Responsibility Act - restrict rules imposing fees



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## **At-Risk Youth**

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**HB 153      Norman Ballantyne**  
**Revise child advocate requirements for special education**  
**Chapter Number: 16                      Effective Date: 2/11/2003**

HB 153 adjusts who may be nominated as a surrogate parent in the context of special education. Persons who are employed by the state or by the local education agency that is providing educational services to the child may not be nominated as a surrogate parent.

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**HB 156      Gary Matthews**  
**Clarify youth court act - revise misdemeanor commitment to correctional facility**  
**Chapter Number: 157                      Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

HB 156 prevents courts from placing a delinquent youth in a state youth correctional facility for an act that would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult. Exceptions to this limitation include youth who have committed four or more misdemeanors in the prior 12 months, youth whose evaluation recommends placement in a correctional facility, and youth who are a danger to the public.

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**HB 266      Hal Jacobson**  
**Revise law on telecommunication services for disabled**  
**Chapter Number: 417                      Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

HB 266 revises the way the Montana telecommunications access program uses funds generated by the 10 cents-a-month fee charged on each telephone line. It removes the requirement for assisting facilities in obtaining infant hearing screening equipment, allows certain funds to be used for hearing-impaired services from the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, and sets the family income level at less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level in order for families to access special communications equipment needed for individuals with deafness.

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**HB 524      Scott Mendenhall**  
**License outdoor behavioral programs**  
**Chapter Number: 348                      Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

HB 524 requires that the Department of Public Health and Human Services provide for the licensure of outdoor behavioral health programs (aka, wilderness programs) that accept public funds. The outdoor behavioral health programs include programs that treat the behavioral health of youth, charge a fee, and provide all or part of their services in the outdoors. Recreation programs such as Boy Scouts and 4-H clubs are not included. Licensure standards will include a variety of requirements such as staffing, health and safety, transportation, and others.



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**HB 722      Edith Clark**  
**Provider tax on intermediate care facilities**  
**Chapter Number: 531      Effective Date: 4/29/2003**

HB 722 imposes a utilization fee (bed tax) on intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded (Boulder and Eastmont). The fees are available for leveraging federal Medicaid funds. Funds generated from the utilization fee go into the prevention and stabilization account to be used to support programs that would have otherwise received additional cuts, including child care, mental health, prescription drugs, and others. The law applies retroactively to tax years beginning after December 31, 2002.

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**SB 42      Joe Tropila**  
**Track educational services provided to sensory impaired children**  
**Chapter Number: 73      Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

SB 42 adds to the responsibilities of Montana School for the Deaf and Blind the establishment of a tracking system for children whose hearing or sight is impaired. This tracking system is intended to begin from the time of impairment identification through the child's exit from intervention or educational services.

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**SB 76      Trudi Schmidt**  
**Revise statutes to conform to federal IDEA**  
**Chapter Number: 479      Effective Date: Date Congress requires all states to implement changes required by reauthorization of IDEA**

SB 76 eliminates certain special education definitions to comply with anticipated changes expected to occur during the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Definitions of disability conditions will rely on federal law. Children, ages 3 through 5, will need to be identified with the specific disability being specified or as having a developmental delay. The law is effective on the date by which Congress, in the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, requires all states to implement the changes required by reauthorization.

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**SB 94      Emily Stonington**  
**Extend multi-agency children's initiative**  
**Chapter Number: 118      Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

SB 94 extends the Multiagency Children's Initiative for serving students with serious emotional disturbance. The initiative is intended to support the establishment of a "system of care" by emphasizing unified care and treatment planning, interagency collaboration, and comprehensive and individualized services. A Children's System of Care Planning Committee is established with responsibilities that include, among other

things, promoting the development of in-state services to assist in returning children from out-of-state placements.

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**SB 95      Emily Stonington**

**Revise child abuse and neglect laws**

**Chapter Number: 504**

**Effective Date : 10/1/2003**

SB 95 revises various laws relating to adoption and child abuse and neglect. It establishes a definition for "kinship foster home" and "youth shelter care facility." The bill also clarifies the term "physical or psychological harm to the child" to include such things as exploitation, malnutrition, abandonment, and others. Various procedures are also revised that must be followed by courts and Child Protective Services for children needing immediate protection and emergency protective services.

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**SB 113      John Esp**

**Separate licensure of intermediate care facilities for developmentally disabled**

**Chapter Number: 403**

**Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

SB 113 defines and establishes licensure for intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled. An intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled provides care, including 24-hour nursing care for two or more developmentally disabled persons, but does not include settings such as community homes for persons with developmental disabilities.

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## **Failed Legislation -- At-Risk Youth**

**HB 726 Christine Kaufmann**

Allow Medicaid funding for foster children under 21 years of age

**SB 25 Jeff Mangan**

Youth with serious mental health problems placed in appropriate treatment

**SB 196 Sam Kitzenberg**

Schools notified by law enforcement of certain offenses by students

**SB 314 Bea McCarthy**

Adjusting eligibility for CHIP

**SB 346 Bob Keenan**

Provide administrative support for multiagency children's system of care initiative



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# Elections

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**HB 87      Larry Jent**

**Ban punch ballot voting systems**

**Chapter Number: 320**

**Effective Date: 4/15/2003**

As of December 31, 2003, punch ballot voting systems will no longer be legal in Montana.

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**HB 155      Larry Jent**

**Revise voting system technologies and vote counting process**

**Chapter Number: 414**

**Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

HB 155 implements the new provisions of the federal Help America Vote Act. This act has implications for the way school elections are conducted. The Secretary of State will be holding workshops on the new regulations for election administrators. School election officials need to work with their county election administrator to familiarize themselves with the new requirements and procedures. A companion bill is HB 190.

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**HB 190      Cindy Younkin**

**Revise certain election laws**

**Chapter Number: 475**

**Effective Date: 1/1/2004**

HB 190 is the major piece of state legislation to implement the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The national act will require many changes in the way Montana conducts elections. In addition to the changes required by HAVA, the Secretary of State will require several activities that go beyond the federal regulations. These include such things as a requirement that all voters show identification before voting and changes in absentee voting. School election clerks need to contact their county election administrator to learn more about these changes in how we conduct Montana elections.

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**HB 198      Carol Lambert**

**Clarify requirements for ballot language**

**Chapter Number: 132**

**Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

HB 198 requires that the language in statements of implication for ballot measures be written so that a positive vote indicates support for the measure and a negative vote indicates opposition to the measure.



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**HB 563      Jeff Laszloffy**  
**Revise election laws**  
**Chapter Number: 367**

**Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

HB 563 prohibits the collection of applications for absentee ballots by third parties. If an individual elector wants to apply for an absentee ballot, only the elector, an immediate family member or a guardian may make the application on the individual's behalf. The elector must mail the application for an absentee ballot directly to the election administrator or deliver the application in person.

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## **Failed Legislation -- Elections**

**HB 138 Dave Lewis**  
Advertisement for school board trustee elections

**HB 719 Alan Olson**  
Revise laws governing ballot measures

**SB 165 Mike Cooney**  
Revise laws on breaking tie votes in elections

**SB 212 Sam Kitzenberg**  
Mill levy election if school funding changed during fiscal year

**SB 296 Mike Taylor**  
Revise election filing fees

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## **Employment Relations**

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**HB 13          Dave Lewis**  
**State employee pay plan**  
**Chapter Number: 552**

**Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

HB 13 is the "state employee pay bill." The bill raises all state employees' pay 25-cents an hour beginning in January 2005 and increases the state's contribution to each employee's health insurance premium by up to \$94 per month over the next two years. The pay raise and insurance contribution will be funded through vacancy savings at the rate of 6.5 percent.

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**HB 35          Hal Jacobson**  
**Include National Guard veterans in public employer preference law**  
**Chapter Number: 24**

**Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

HB 35 expands the public employer employment preference to include National Guard members who have served 6 years in the Montana Army or Air National Guard. It also eliminates the eligibility requirement to have served 180 days active duty.

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**HB 44          Frank Smith**  
**Revise rate for purchase of military service for PERS**  
**Chapter Number: 26**

**Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

HB 44 allows defined benefit retirement system members with at least five years of membership service to purchase military service. By law, the amount of service which may be purchased is limited to five years in combination with some other service purchases.

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**HB 69          Frank Smith**  
**Revise laws relating to notaries public**  
**Chapter Number: 12**

**Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

HB 69 changes the laws for notaries public by requiring them to list the name of the town or city where they reside and to type, stamp or print their name underneath their signature.

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**HB 143      Carol Lambert**  
**Limit PERB liability for improper employer reporting**  
**Chapter Number: 38      Effective Date: 2/19/2003**

HB 143 provides that plan fiduciaries are not liable for investment losses that result from incorrect reporting by an employer or agency.

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**HB 183      Donald Steinbeisser**  
**Uniform notice format for health insurance changes**  
**Chapter Number: 384      Effective Date: 1/1/2004**

Effective January 1, 2004, every health insurance issuer delivering group or individual insurance coverage must give a group policyholder at least 60 days' advance notice and an individual policyholder at least 45 days notice of a change in rates or a change in terms or benefits. If the health insurance issuer fails to provide the required notice, the coverage remains in effect at the existing rate with the existing benefits until the full notice period has expired or until the effective date of the replacement coverage obtained by the insured, whichever comes first.

A health insurance issuer must provide at least 15 days prior notification of cancellation for nonpayment of premium for group health insurance.

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**HB 213      Dave Gallik**  
**Housekeeping bill for retirement systems administered by MPERA**  
**Chapter Number: 429      Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

Each legislative session, the MPERA Board submits proposed amendments to revise the statutes for the public retirement systems it administers. A few of the changes include:

1. A PERS member with at least 5 years of service may purchase up to 5 years of the member's reserve military service.
2. Members may now designate their estate as a beneficiary, in addition to natural persons, charitable organizations, or trusts for the benefit of living persons.
3. PERS members retiring after October 1, 1999, and choosing Option 2 or 3 have, under limited circumstances, been allowed to revert to the retirement benefit available to them at retirement. Now these members may either revert to their original retirement benefit or elect a different option and name a different contingent annuitant.



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**HB 230      Ron Erickson**  
**Revise time for payment of wages**  
**Chapter Number: 301      Effective Date: 4/14/2003**

HB 230 allows an employer to pay an employee in the next pay period if an employee submits a timesheet after the employer's deadline for processing timesheets.

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**HB 264      Carol Gibson**  
**Require elected county officials to comply with personnel policies**  
**Chapter Number: 112      Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

HB 264 allows a board of county commissioners to require all county officers to supervise staff in a manner that complies with personnel policies and procedures adopted by the county governing body.

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**HB 338      Jim Keane**  
**Increase unemployment benefits**  
**Chapter Number: 432      Effective Date: 4/21/2003**

HB 338 increased the maximum weekly unemployment insurance benefit amount from 63% to 66.5% of the average weekly wage. It also increased the length of time for which an individual is eligible for unemployment insurance benefits from 26 to 28 weeks. These increases apply to claims for benefits filed on or after October 1, 2003.

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**HB 410      Cindy Younkin**  
**Revise work comp for de minimus travel reimbursements**  
**Chapter Number: 435      Effective Date: 4/21/2003**

HB 410 creates a distinction between an incentive paid to a worker (typically as part of a collective bargaining agreement) to travel as opposed to reimbursement for travel expenses and provides that a worker receiving an incentive is not in the course and scope of their employment if injured while traveling. This bill is effective April 21, 2003 and applies to claims for injuries occurring on or after that date.

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**SB 7      Edward Butcher**  
**Exempt local elected officials from lobbyist registration fee**  
**Chapter Number: 52      Effective Date: 2/26/2003**

SB 7 defines several terms used in connection with lobbying laws and exempts legislators, public officials, elected local officials, elected federal officials and elected tribal officials from paying a lobbyist registration fee while acting in an official governmental capacity.

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**SB 66          John Bohlinger****Reduce the years of service required for PERS member to buy military service****Chapter Number: 289****Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

SB 66 allows defined benefit retirement system members with at least five years of membership service to purchase military service. By law, the amount of service which may be purchased is limited to five years in combination with some other service purchases.

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**SB 108          Walter McNutt****Generally revise workers' compensation laws****Chapter Number: 193****Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

SB 108 clarifies an issue resulting from a recent lawsuit regarding in and out of state employers. It added a category of employment NOT covered by the Montana Workers Compensation Act as "(u) employment of a person who is not an employee or worker in this state as defined in 39-71-118(10)" MCA. It also established a \$200 penalty for any employer that fails to obtain workers' compensation insurance within 30 days of notice of requirement.

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**SB 110          Ken Toole****Coordinate PERS status for PERS member elected to PERS covered office****Chapter Number: 402****Effective Date: 4/17/2003**

SB 110 revises and clarifies options for state and local officials to choose or decline membership in a PERS-covered elected position. It also allows TRS retirees who are elected to the position of County Superintendent after 1995 to choose not to participate in TRS as an active member and to continue to receive their full retirement benefit. The bill does not allow active TRS members to "unelect" membership and retire after they are elected to the position.

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**SB 145          John Bohlinger****Participants in federal volunteer programs to purchase PERS service****Chapter Number: 292****Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

A vested member of PERS will now be allowed to purchase up to 5 years of service credit for service in a U.S. service program such as the Peace Corps or Freedom Corps.

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**SB 282          Carolyn Squires****Revise workers' compensation laws****Chapter Number: 486****Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

The waiting period for receiving temporary total workers' compensation benefits has been reduced from 5 days (40 hours) to 4 days (32 hours). Benefit eligibility will



start with the 5<sup>th</sup> day of wage loss. This bill applies to injuries occurring on or after July 1, 2003.

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**SB 447 Duane Grimes**

**Eliminate test for liability for disclosure of employee or former employee info**

**Chapter Number: 463**

**Effective Date: 4/21/2003**

SB 447 repeals 27-1-737, MCA, which is a test for liability for nonpublic employers when they release information about an employee's performance. Public sector employers already have some immunity from such disclosures when performed as part of an "official duty."

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## **Failed Legislation -- Employment Relations**

**HB 204 Bob Lawson**

Affordable Health Insurance Act

**HB 302 Dave Lewis**

School employee health insurance pool

**HB 360 Dave Lewis**

State employee voluntary termination incentive

**HB 365 George Golie**

Revise restrictions on public employee political activity

**HB 422 Carol Juneau**

Indian hiring preference for reservation schools

**HB 423 Carol Juneau**

Authorize school board to implement "local preference" in hiring

**HB 732 Sandy Weiss**

Increase minimum hourly wage rate

**HJ 44 Nancy Fritz**

Study health insurance coverage for schools

**SB 52 Dan Harrington**

Wage and benefits for noncertified school employees during closures

**SB 120 Bill Glaser**

Allow contracted services for school personnel

**SB 142 Walter McNutt**

Clarify relationship of public documents with electronic information systems

**SB 259 Bill Glaser**

Statewide health insurance for K-12 schools

**SB 382 Edward Butcher**

Portability in teacher employment



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## **Safety**

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**HB 67      Christine Kaufmann**

**Revise laws relating to pedestrian traffic**

**Chapter Number: 374**

**Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

HB 67 amends several sections of law and adds several new sections. HB 67 amends 20-3-106, MCA, the powers and duties of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to eliminate the statutory provision for school safety patrols. HB 67 amends 61-8-502, MCA to prohibit a vehicle operator from driving past a school crossing guard. This change in 61-8-502, MCA accommodates the change in 20-3-106, MCA which eliminated "school safety patrols." As amended, 61-8-502, MCA strikes "school safety patrols" and replaces that phrase with "school crossing guard."

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**HB 105      Bernie Olson**

**Revise laws related to vehicle operating requirements**

**Chapter Number: 352**

**Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

HB 105 amends portions of a number of transportation-related laws, repeals one law, and creates a few new sections of law. A new section of law created under HB 105 is specific to school crossing guards. This law authorizes a public school district or the administration of a private school to organize and supervise school crossing guards for a school under their authority. Under this new provision, the responsibility to prescribe rules for identifying, training, and operating school crossing guards is placed with the Montana Department of Justice. The Department of Justice is to undertake its responsibilities for school crossing guards in cooperation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction and in accordance with the Department of Transportation's sign manual.

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**HB 112      Jeff Pattison**

**Allow vehicle to pass school buses stopped in designated turnouts**

**Chapter Number: 46**

**Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

HB 112 amends 61-8-351, MCA by adding a description of a designated school bus pullout, and requires such pullouts to be approved by the local school board as a mandatory stop for receiving and discharging school children. HB 112 states that when a school bus receives or discharges school children in a designated school bus pullout, the requirements for motor vehicles to stop and for the bus to actuate its amber and red lights do not apply.

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**HB 269      Bob Bergren**  
**Revise fire marshal laws**  
**Chapter Number: 387**

**Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

Fire inspections must be conducted in school buildings at least once each 18 months. The inspection must be conducted by the chief of the fire department of a municipality, district or fire service area or by a fire inspector of the Department of Justice.

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**HB 573      John Parker**  
**Allow diabetes medication dispensation in schools**  
**Chapter Number: 421      Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

HB 573 creates new law allowing a parent or guardian of a diabetic student to designate a school district employee to administer glucagon (a specific diabetes medication) to the diabetic student in an emergency. Among its provisions, the new law states that the school district employee must agree in writing to accept the parental designation to administer glucagon; the designated employee must be trained in recognizing hypoglycemia and in the administration of glucagon; and that documentation of the training be filed with the school district. HB 573 also limits the liability of the "parent-designated adult" (i.e., the school district employee who has agreed to the parental designation to administer the diabetes medication glucagon in an emergency) and of the school district that employs the parent-designated adult.

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## **Failed Legislation -- Safety**

**HB 226 Kim Gillan**  
Graduated teen drivers license

**HB 335 Holly Raser**  
Safety standards for public playground construction

**HB 742 Sandy Weiss**  
Fund summer youth tobacco prevention program

**SB 295 Edward Butcher**  
Revise laws for licensing minor drivers



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## **School Finance**

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**HB 60            Joe McKenney**

**Exempt deaf & blind school from spending reduction**

**Chapter Number: 169**

**Effective Date: 3/28/2003**

HB 60 prohibits the Governor from directing a reduction in spending for the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind in the event of a projected general fund deficit.

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**HB 88            Dave Kasten**

**De-earmark certain local government and school funds -- revise earmarking law**

**Chapter Number: 41**

**Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

State law allocates one-half of the monies that the State of Montana receives under section 10 of the federal Taylor Grazing Act to the elementary BASE funding program. Prior to the passage of HB 88, the state distributed these monies directly to counties; the counties then remitted the monies back to the state through the elementary county equalization fund. Under HB 88, the state will deposit one-half of the Taylor Grazing Act monies into the state general fund and distribute these revenues to schools through the general fund appropriation for K-12 BASE aid.

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**HB 94            Bob Lawson**

**Revise public participation in open meetings**

**Chapter Number: 425**

**Effective Date: 4/22/2003**

HB 94 amends 2-3-103, MCA to include a requirement that the agenda for public meetings include an item allowing public comment on any public matter not otherwise on the agenda and that is within the jurisdiction of the agency. School districts are included as agencies pursuant to 2-3-102, MCA. The agency may not act on a matter unless specific notice of the matter is included in the agenda and public comment has been allowed.

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**HB 135          Joan Andersen**

**Clarify use of tuition fund for schools**

**Chapter Number: 130**

**Effective Date: 3/26/2003**

HB 135 authorizes a school district to use its tuition fund to pay the costs for a resident special education student who enrolls in a day-treatment program under an approved individualized education program at a private, nonsectarian school located in or outside of the student's resident district. The district of residence shall finance the tuition amount from the district tuition fund and any transportation amount from the transportation fund. The state will also reimburse districts' tuition funds for the per-ANB funding for students attending



private, nonsectarian day treatment programs during FY2004 and subsequent years. This bill affects payments for attendance in school fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2003.

## Students Placed by a District in Day Treatment at a Private Non-Sectarian<sup>1</sup> School

(HB 135, 2003 Session and ARM 10.20.106)

	In FY2003:	In FY2004:	In FY2005 and After:
<b>Included in Enrollment Counts for ANB?</b>	<p>Students may be counted in October 2002 and February 2003 enrollment counts if: (ARM 10.20.106)<sup>2</sup></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Student otherwise qualifies for ANB and was enrolled at district expense on the count date; AND</li> <li>2) District holds written verification from the facility that the student was participating in the private program on the count date; AND</li> <li>3) Either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The private program is accredited by MT BPE; OR</li> <li>(b) The district has an IEP for the student's services or the district provides the program at the private facility using district staff; AND</li> </ol> </li> <li>4) The private program providing Day Treatment is a center, home, or other program (not a day care center) licensed by and located in Montana.</li> </ol>	<p>No – Districts will <u>not</u> include students placed in a day treatment program at a private, non-sectarian school in the enrollment counts for October 2003 and February 2004.</p>	<p>No – Districts will <u>not</u> include students placed in a day treatment program at a private, non-sectarian school in the enrollment counts for October 2004 and February 2005.</p>
<b>How does the district pay for the services of the private school?</b>	General Fund Contract	Cost of day treatment will be paid partially from General Fund via a contract and partially from the Tuition Fund (permissive, non-voted levy).	Tuition Fund levy (permissive, non-voted), partially offset using state's reimbursement for FY2004 students, to be received during FY2005. [See (1) below.]
<b>How does the district receive the state payment?</b>	<p>Students will be included in official enrollment counts in October 2002 and February 2003.</p> <p>FY2003 enrollment will result in FY2004 ANB that will be funded in FY2004 through Direct State Aid paid to the district's General Fund.</p>	<p>(1) <u>For FY2003 students:</u> State ANB payments for students enrolled in day treatment in FY2003 will be deposited in the General Fund in FY2004. This General Fund money can be used to pay for day treatment.</p> <p>(2) <u>For FY2004 students:</u></p>	<p>(1) <u>For FY2004 students:</u> Based on the FP-15 report submitted at the end of FY2004, OPI will calculate the ANB reimbursement and will pay the district's Tuition Fund in FY2004-05.</p> <p>(2) <u>For FY2005 students:</u> Students enrolled in day</p>

		Students enrolled in day treatment in FY2004 will be reported to the state on the FP-15 Tuition Report** at the end of FY2004. (OPI will calculate the ANB reimbursement and will pay the district's Tuition Fund in FY2005.)	treatment in FY2005 and years thereafter will be reported to the state on the FP-15 Tuition Report <sup>3</sup> at the end of the year. (OPI will calculate the ANB reimbursement and will pay the district's Tuition Fund in the following year.)
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1 "Sectarian" is a parochial, or other church sponsored, school. A nonsectarian school is one that is not parochial or church sponsored.

2 OPI will amend ARM 10.20.106 to implement changes for FY2004 resulting from HB 135.

3 FP-15 report is due to the County Superintendent by July 15 and due to OPI by July 30.

## **HB 167      Clarice Schrumpf**

### **Revise state records management laws**

**Chapter Number: 30**

**Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

HB 167 revises state records management laws to clarify the definition of state records, to require that each agency appoint a records coordinator, and to authorize the storage of permanent public records at locations other than the state archives or state records center.

## **HB 207      Jesse Laslovich**

### **Revise property tax assessments and certification dates**

**Chapter Number: 34**

**Effective Date: 2/18/2003**

HB 207 extends the deadline from the second Monday in July to the first Monday in August for the Department of Revenue to certify total taxable valuations to school districts and other taxing authorities. By the first Monday in August, the department must also deliver to the County Superintendent a statement of the total assessed value and total taxable value of all the property of the school districts in the county. Upon the request of a school district, the department must provide an estimate of the total taxable value within the district by the second Monday in July.

## **HB 206      Cindy Younkin**

### **Change driver's license fee -- distribution**

**Chapter Number: 558**

**Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

HB 206 changes the distribution of fees collected by the state for driver's licenses and for duplicate driver's licenses. A portion of these fees is deposited into the state traffic education account from which OPI provides a reimbursement to school districts for the cost of operating local driver's education programs. HB 206 reduces the percentage of fees allocated to the state traffic education account because the amount being collected is increasing. By reducing the percentage allocated to the state traffic education account, the amount deposited into the account should remain at the same level as in the recent past. Thus, reimbursements to schools should also remain at the level of recent years.



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**HB 333 Karl Waitschies****Interest on county funds credited to fund invested****Chapter Number: 214****Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

HB 333 allows counties, cities and towns to credit interest from investments and deposits to any separately created fund in proportion to each fund's participation in the deposit or investment, rather than depositing the interest in the general fund.

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**HB 744 Edith Clark****Implement refinancing of services through DPHHS****Chapter Number: 576****Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

HB 744 directs the Department of Public Health and Human Services to seek federal funds to offset general fund expenditures to the maximum extent possible. The bill also authorizes the Governor, in consultation with the Legislative Finance Committee, to exercise the option of entering into the Medicaid block grant program. The general fund savings may be used to reinstate services that have been cut during the 2003 biennium and to support the costs of the refinancing project.

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**HB 748 Ronald Devlin****Simplification of oil and natural gas tax distribution****Chapter Number: 522****Effective Date: 4/26/2003**

HB 748 revises the method for distributing oil and natural gas production taxes to the state and to local taxing units. For each county with oil and gas production, the legislation establishes fixed percentages (in statute) for the allocation of oil and natural gas production taxes to the elementary and high school retirement funds, county transportation fund and school districts. The school districts' share of the tax allocation is divided up among the school districts in a county that have oil and natural gas production. The amount allocated to each producing school district is determined by the ratio that oil and natural gas production taxes attributable to production within the district bears to total oil and gas production taxes attributable to production within the county. The taxes received by a school district must be distributed to each fund in the relative proportion of the mill levy for each fund.

The Department of Revenue distributes the oil and gas production tax revenues to the county treasurer on a quarterly basis by August 1 (for the production quarter that ends on March 31), November 1 (for the production quarter that ends on June 30), February 1 (for the production quarter that ends on September 30), and May 1 (for the production quarter that ends on December 31). The act applies retroactively to tax revenue derived from oil and gas production occurring after December 31, 2002.



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**HJ 6            Dee Brown**  
**Urge federal government to fund educational mandates**  
**Chapter Number: N/A            Effective Date: N/A**

HJ 6 urges the United States Congress and President Bush to increase funding for special education so that the federal promise of providing states with 40 percent of the national average per-pupil expenditure required to serve children and youth with disabilities can be achieved. The federal share of funds under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, for the current school year, is approximately 17 percent.

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**HJ 11            Frank Smith**  
**Urge federal increase in impact aid for schools**  
**Chapter Number: N/A            Effective Date: N/A**

HJ 11 requests that Governor Judy Martz write a letter to the members of the Montana Congressional Delegation urging their support for a 7.5% increase in impact aid funding. The Secretary of State is required to send a copy of this resolution to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell Band of Chippewa.

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**SB 16            Jeff Mangan**  
**School district territory transfer**  
**Chapter Number: 151            Effective Date: 3/27/2003**

SB 16 significantly revises the laws relating to school territory transfers following the Montana Supreme Court's declaration that the old laws on this subject were unconstitutional. See <http://www.lawlibrary.state.mt.us/dscgi/ds.py/Get/File-5973/99-045.htm>. SB 16 establishes procedures for school territory transfers and authorizes appeal of a County Superintendent's decision on a transfer petition to the state district court.

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**SB 97            Bob Story**  
**Require submission of revenue amounts for retirement and transportation**  
**Chapter Number: 276            Effective Date: 5/9/2003**

Beginning with school fiscal year 2003-04, SB 97 requires County Superintendents to report to the Office of Public Instruction the revenue amounts used to establish the levy requirements for the county transportation fund and the county retirement funds. The revenue report must be completed on forms provided by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and are due to OPI no later than the second Monday in September.

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**SB 294 Kelly Gebhardt****Revise interest rate applied to refund of protested property taxes****Chapter Number: 511****Effective Date: 4/25/2003**

Under existing law, all property taxes and fees paid under protest to a county or municipality must be deposited by the county treasurer in a special county fund designated for the tax protest. Under SB 294, any protested taxes that are paid on centrally assessed property, for levies that are imposed by the state, must be remitted by the county treasurer to the state treasurer. Upon receipt of the monies, the state treasurer deposits the portion of the funds levied for the six mill university levy to the state special revenue fund. The remainder of the funds remitted to the state must be deposited in the state general fund. If a tax protest is determined in favor of the protesting party, the taxpayer will receive a refund with interest. The interest will be calculated at the rate of interest earned by the state's pooled investment fund. The legislation applies retroactively to any tax appeal or tax paid under protest after October 31, 2000, except for refunds of property taxes made after October 31, 2000 and before May 1, 2003.

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**SB 307 Don Ryan****Revise school district investment laws****Chapter Number: 411****Effective Date: 10/1/2003**

SB 307 revises school district investment laws, eliminates the requirement that districts establish separate investment accounts for each fund, and allows a district and county treasurer to negotiate the length of time that an investment agreement is binding. SB 307 also allows all district revenue, other than debt service revenue, to be sent directly to a district's investment account.

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**SB 424 Linda Nelson****Revise school finance; increase school facility entitlements****Chapter Number: 550****Effective Date: 5/1/2003**

- ◆ SB 424 increases the basic and per-ANB entitlements by 1.1% in FY2004 and 2.07% in FY2005. The specific entitlement amounts are shown as follows:

<u>General Fund Entitlements</u>	<u>FY2004</u>	<u>FY2005</u>
Basic Entitlement – Elementary	\$19,456	\$19,859
Basic Entitlement – High School	\$216,171	\$220,646
Per-ANB Entitlement – Elementary	\$3,949	\$4,031
Per-ANB Entitlement – High School	\$5,262	\$5,371

- ◆ In FY2004, the amount of benefits that a school district or cooperative can charge to the retirement fund for federally-salaried employees is limited to the amount that the district charged to the retirement fund in FY2003 for federally-salaried employees. The limitation is on the dollar amount charged not the number of positions that may be charged.



- ◆ Beginning in FY2005, school districts will only be able to charge the retirement fund for retirement benefits associated with employees paid from state and local funds or the school food services fund. Cooperatives will only be able to charge the retirement fund for retirement benefits associated with employees paid from the cooperative's interlocal agreement fund if the interlocal agreement fund is supported solely from districts' general fund and state special education allowable cost payments.
- ◆ The HB 124 block grant for the county retirement fund is eliminated effective FY2004.
- ◆ The HB 124 block grant for the district transportation fund is cut in half effective FY2004.
- ◆ The HB 124 block grant for the debt service fund is eliminated effective FY2004.
- ◆ The on-schedule pupil transportation rate is increased as shown below. The weighted ridership concept and the November ridership count for high school students are eliminated.

<u>Rated Capacity of School Bus</u>	<u>Reimbursement rate per bus mile</u>
Less than 50 passengers	\$ .95
50-59 passengers	\$1.15
60-69 passengers	\$1.36
70-79 passengers	\$1.57
80 or more passengers	\$1.80

- ◆ School facility reimbursements (paid to the district debt service fund) are increased to \$8,270,735 in FY2004 and \$8,411,293 in FY2005 in HB 2. The school facility entitlements and guaranteed mill value are increased in SB 424 to match the higher appropriation. In addition, eligibility for school facility payments has been expanded to include general obligation bonds sold before July 1, 1991.
- ◆ SB 424 creates a combined fund block grant that schools may deposit in any budgeted fund of the district. The combined fund block grant replaces the HB 124 block grants to the district tuition, bus depreciation, building reserve, nonoperating, and adult education funds.
- ◆ For 2003, school districts may cancel their general fund levy election and reschedule the election for any time prior to the adoption of the final FY2004 budget.
- ◆ SB 424 establishes an automatic inflationary adjustment to the basic and per-ANB entitlements starting in FY2006. The inflationary adjustment will be used to determine the "present law base budget." The Governor may propose an education budget that is higher or lower than the present law base. The purpose of the present law base budget is to provide a basis of comparison for reporting the amount of "new money" for schools.



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**SB 441      Don Ryan****Allow school trustees to issue impact aid revenue bonds****Chapter Number: 492****Effective Date: 4/24/2003**

SB 441 authorizes the trustees of a school district to issue "impact aid revenue bonds." Impact aid revenue bonds are defined as bonds that pledge and are payable solely from federal impact aid basic support payments. The maximum amount of impact aid revenue bonds that a district may issue may not exceed an amount equal to three times the average of the district's annual federal impact aid basic support payments for the 5 years immediately preceding the issuance of the bonds. At the time of issuance, the average annual payment of principal and interest on the bonds each year may not exceed 35% of the total federal impact aid basic support payment to the district for the current year. A petition calling for an election on the proposition of issuing school district bonds must specify whether the bonds will be general obligation bonds or impact aid revenue bonds.

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**SB 454      Bob Story****Revise the schedule of block grants for schools****Chapter Number: 518****Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

SB 454 adjusts the county transportation block grants in FY2004 and years thereafter to account for incorrect reporting by counties of certain 2001 non-levy revenues sources. The adjustments are based on information collected by the Montana Association of Counties from county treasurers.

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**SB 460      Bob Story****Revise definitions applicable to metal mines license tax****Chapter Number: 342****Effective Date: 4/15/2003**

SB 460 increases the deductions that are allowed in calculating taxable gross proceeds for the metal mines license tax and the metal mines gross proceeds tax. The increased deductions apply to production that occurs after December 31, 2003. For property tax purposes, the gross proceeds of metal mines are taxed at 3 percent of their value. The legislation is projected to reduce general fund collections from the 95-mill school equalization levy by \$41,000 per year beginning in FY2005. In school districts with metal mines production, the district taxable valuation will be reduced as a result of SB 460. The statewide taxable valuation is projected to be reduced by \$429,000.

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**SB 461      Bob Story****Mitigate effects of cyclical reappraisal****Chapter Number: 606****Effective Date: 5/9/2003**

The purpose of SB 461 is to mitigate the property tax impacts of the increased taxable valuations that resulted from the 2003 reappraisal of residential property, commercial property, and agricultural land. The analysis presented to the Legislature indicated that,

without these mitigations, the 2003 reappraisal cycle would have increased class 4 residential property values by 20.2% statewide, class 4 commercial property by 18.5% statewide, and class 3 agricultural land by 15.3% statewide.

Three changes approved in SB 461 will affect the taxable valuation of real property for upcoming school fiscal years. The changes are a 6 year phase-in of the 2003 reappraisals, the lowering of the tax rates on class three and four property, and adjustments in the property tax exemptions for residential and commercial real property. SB 461 also allows an additional tax rate reduction for residential dwellings with extraordinary increases in value due to reappraisal.

SB 461 phases-in the 2003 reappraisal at 16.66 percent annually for the next six years until it is fully effective in tax year 2008. The next reappraisal will be phased-in beginning January 1, 2009.

The tax rate on class 3 and 4 property is lowered to 3.4% in tax year 2003 and continues to be reduced until it reaches 3.01% in tax year 2008. A portion of the market value of class 4 property is exempted from taxation according to the following schedule:

<u>Tax Year</u>	<u>Class 3 &amp; 4 Tax Rate</u>	<u>Exemption Residential</u>	<u>Exemption Multi-Family Housing</u>	<u>Exemption Commerical</u>
2002	3.46%	31.00%	31.00%	13.00%
2003	3.40%	31.00%	31.00%	13.00%
2004	3.30%	31.40%	31.40%	13.30%
2005	3.22%	32.00%	32.00%	13.80%
2006	3.14%	32.60%	32.60%	14.20%
2007	3.07%	33.20%	33.20%	14.60%
2008	3.01%	34.00%	34.00%	15.00%

For tax year 2003, SB 461 extends deadlines relating to reappraisals, assessments, reimbursements, budgets, and collection of property taxes. Deadlines are extended "as necessary and reasonable."

SB 461 creates an interim property tax reappraisal study committee to study the effects of cyclical reappraisal and methods for mitigating the changes in taxable value caused by cyclical reappraisal. The legislation also creates an interim tax reform study committee to conduct a comprehensive examination of taxation in Montana and to study tax reform that may include revising the existing tax structure and considering alternative forms of taxation. The committees will submit reports and propose legislation to the 2005 legislature. The legislature appropriated \$60,000 from the state general fund for expenses of the committees.

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## Failed Legislation -- School Finance

**HB 73 Holly Raser**  
K-12 BASE aid increases

**HB 103 Hal Jacobson**  
Revise pupil transportation funding formula



**HB 113 Ronald Devlin**

Reallocate certain school timber money

**HB 193 Gary Branae**

Payment to school district for each certified FTE

**HB 231 Karl Waitschies**

Revise tax penalty and interest

**HB 275 Tom Facey**

Revise assessment and taxation of certain improvements to real property

**HB 313 Cindy Younkin**

Carryforward of school budgets

**HB 355 Brad Newman**

Increase cigarette tax and tobacco products tax

**HB 400 Kim Gillan**

Require school trustees to establish procedures for canceling meetings

**HB 513 Debby Barrett**

Clarify applicability of open meeting laws

**HB 630 Alan Olson**

Cap school trust land revenue and use funds for other education purposes

**HB 685 Scott Mendenhall**

Youth in certain facility counted for ANB

**SB 6 Don Ryan**

Require application of cash reappropriated to BASE aid

**SB 90 Sam Kitzenberg**

Provide annual inflation-related adjustments to school base funding

**HB 177 Joe Balyeat**

Revise and reallocate certain revenue

**HB 228 Michael Lange**

Divert coal tax revenue for funding education

**HB 268 Ron Erickson**

Eliminate phaseout of business equipment tax

**HB 288 Ron Erickson**

Rental car tax

**HB 345 Roy Brown**

Revise treasure state endowment funding

**HB 374 Carol Gibson**

Revise residency law for school enrollment purposes

**HB 459 Roy Brown**

Three-year averaging for school funding

**HB 604 Dave Gallik**

Distribute natural gas tax to school flexibility account

**HB 643 Joe Balyeat**

\$3,000,000 general fund transfer to school flexibility account in certain case

**HB 766 Carol Juneau**

Revise video gambling machine taxes to fund certain programs

**SB 74 Bob Keenan**

Use of state land for school building sites

**SB 92 Don Ryan**

Three-year averaging of ANB



**SB 201 Linda Nelson**

Exempt certain cooperative purchasing from bid requirements

**SB 228 Mike Taylor**

Entity receiving funds from state to provide financial report upon request

**SB 279 Edward Butcher**

Allow person 19 years old or older to enroll in public high school

**SB 305 Emily Stonington**

Revise notice requirements for emergency rules

**SB 313 Sam Kitzenberg**

Allow school district to transfer general fund balance into miscellaneous programs fund

**SB 333 Rick Laible**

Fund education from coal bed methane taxes

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Soft drink tax for funding elder services, Medicaid, student assessments

**SB 467 Jim Elliott**

Adjustment of guaranteed tax base payments for successful property tax protest

**SB 224 Sam Kitzenberg**

Sales tax on goods for property tax relief, universities and teacher pay

**SB 256 Jon Ellingson**

Revise property taxation of class 8 business equipment

**SB 303 Bill Glaser**

Modify school funding laws

**SB 309 John Bohlinger**

Increase school funding from cigarette tax and video gambling tax

**SB 323 Duane Grimes**

Revise school funding

**SB 411 Bill Glaser**

Define Legislature's intent to provide a basic system of free quality schools

**SB 453 Bob Keenan**

Revising types of property in classes 9 & 13

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## **STATE LANDS**

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**HB 223      Bob Lawson**

**Authorize state land sale proceeds for state land purchases**

**Chapter Number: 355**

**Effective Date: 4/17/2003**

HB 223 establishes a pilot "land banking" program for the sale and purchase of state school trust lands. There are numerous parcels of state land that are currently surrounded by private owners. These parcels have very limited income producing ability for school trust land revenues because of isolated nature. This program allows for a limited selling of these lands and using the money to purchase other land that has better income producing potential. If successful this should increase the overall value of school trust lands and generate more annual income.

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**HB 537      Bob Lawson**

**Require study to recalculate annual sustainable yield on forested state lands**

**Chapter Number: 440**

**Effective Date: 4/21/2003**

HB 537 directs the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, under the direction of the Land Board, to commission a new sustainable yield study for state school trust timber lands. A good deal of new information has been developed since the last study that was conducted 10 years ago. Currently the sustained yield level for timber harvest is 42 million board feet a year. If it is scientifically established that state land timber lands can be harvested at a higher sustained yield figure without damage to the timber base, it can mean additional dollars for the purchase school technology.

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**SB 130      Dan McGee**

**Revise laws on recreational use of trust land**

**Chapter Number: 596**

**Effective Date: 3/1/2004**

People using state school trust lands for recreational purposes are currently required to purchase an annual permit at a cost of \$10. This law has been difficult to enforce and consequently the state has not received what many believe to be the full recreational revenue potential from these lands. SB 130 sets up a cooperative agreement between the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to include a \$2 fee when any person purchases a conservation license to hunt or fish. The revenues from the \$2 fee should increase recreational revenues from state school trust lands.



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**SB 409      Corey Stapleton**

**Development plan for Otter Creek tracts**

**Chapter Number: 318**

**Effective Date: 4/15/2003**

Thanks to an historic 2002 Land Board Agreement with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, the State of Montana received an estimated 533 million tons of federal coal lands known as the "Otter Creek Tracts." If these new state school trust lands can be developed, it would mean millions of dollars for Montana schools.

SB 409 requires the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to begin environmental, cultural, and economic studies to increase the marketability of the Otter Creek Tracts.

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## **Failed Legislation -- State Lands**

**HB 594   Veronica Small Eastman**

Remove elements that Land Board considers  
when setting grazing lease rates

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# TEACHER RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

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**HB 154      Ralph Lenhart**

**Revise laws governing teachers' retirement system**

**Chapter Number: 174**

**Effective Date: 3/31/2003**

HB 154 clarifies statutes governing the Teachers' Retirement System. Revisions included in this bill were not intended to enhance or detract from the benefits available to Montana's public educators. The most significant change made in this bill corrects an unintended consequence related to GABA and the 36-month waiting period. Retirees whose benefits are terminated when they return to covered employment will not have to wait an additional 36 months when they subsequently retire before they are again eligible for the GABA.

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**HB 178      Nancy Fritz**

**Allow certain retired teachers and administrators to work without loss of benefits**

**Chapter Number: 120**

**Effective Date: 7/1/2003**

This bill allows retired teachers, specialists or administrators, who have been retired for at least 12 months, to be reemployed full-time by a "school" without loss of their TRS benefits. "Schools" under this proposal are limited to K-12 school districts, the Pine Hills youth correctional facility, the Riverside Youth Correctional Facility, and the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. The University System is excluded. Employers will continue to pay the normal employer contribution rate (7.47%) on the salary paid to the TRS working retiree, and the bill will sunset in 3 years.

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## Failed Legislation -- Teacher Recruitment and Retention

**HB 107    Alan Olson**

Student loan repayment assistance for certain teachers

**HB 133    Larry Jent**

Professional retirement option for TRS members

**HB 375    Gary Matthews**

Revise teachers retirement laws - return to work

**HB 662    Dee Brown**

Minimum benefit allowance for teacher retired with less than 25 service years

**SB 267    Corey Stapleton**

Teacher signing bonus program



# INDEX OF K-12 EDUCATION-RELATED BILLS

Bill	Sponsor	Subject	Pass/ Fail	Category
HB 2	Dave Lewis	General appropriations act	P	Appropriations
HB 3	John Brueggeman	Supplemental appropriations bill	P	Appropriations
HB 13	Dave Lewis	State employee pay plan	P	Emp. Relations
HB 19	Dave Kasten	Generally revise state expenditure limits	F	Appropriations
HB 35	Hal Jacobson	Include National Guard veterans in public employer preference law	P	Emp. Relations
HB 44	Frank Smith	Revise rate for purchase of military service for PERS	P	Emp. Relations
HB 60	Joe McKenney	Exempt deaf & blind school from spending reduction	P	School Finance
HB 67	Christine Kaufmann	Revise laws relating to pedestrian traffic	P	Safety
HB 69	Frank Smith	Revise laws relating to notaries public	P	Emp. Relations
HB 73	Holly Raser	K-12 BASE aid increases	F	School Finance
HB 74	Dave Lewis	Appropriate coal trust funds for this biennium	F	Appropriations
HB 78	Gary Branae	Trustees to determine conduct of school on Saturdays in an emergency	P	Accred/Curric
HB 87	Larry Jent	Ban punch ballot voting systems	P	Elections
HB 88	Dave Kasten	De-earmark certain local government and school funds - revise earmarking law	P	School Finance
HB 94	Bob Lawson	Revise public participation in open meetings	P	School Finance
HB 103	Hal Jacobson	Revise pupil transportation funding formula	F	School Finance
HB 105	Bernie Olson	Revise laws related to vehicle operating requirements	P	Safety
HB 107	Alan Olson	Student loan repayment assistance for certain teachers	F	Teacher Recruitment & Retention
HB 112	Jeff Pattison	Allow vehicle to pass school buses stopped in designated turnouts	P	Safety
HB 113	Ronald Devlin	Reallocate certain school timber money	F	School Finance
HB 133	Larry Jent	Professional retirement option for TRS members	F	Teacher Recruitment & Retention
HB 135	Joan Andersen	Clarify use of tuition fund for schools	P	School Finance
HB 138	Dave Lewis	Advertisement for school board trustee elections	F	Elections
HB 143	Carol Lambert	Limit PERB liability for improper employer reporting	P	Emp. Relations
HB 153	Norman Ballantyne	Revise child advocate requirements for special education	P	At-Risk Youth
HB 154	Ralph Lenhart	Revise laws governing teachers' retirement system	P	Teacher Recruitment & Retention
HB 155	Larry Jent	Revise voting system technologies and vote counting process	P	Elections

HB 156	Gary Matthews	Clarify youth court act - revise misdemeanor commitment to correctional facility	P	At-Risk Youth
HB 167	Clarice Schrumph	Revise state records management laws	P	School Finance
HB 177	Joe Balyeat	Revise and reallocate certain revenue	F	School Finance
HB 178	Nancy Fritz	Allow certain retired teachers and administrators to work without loss of benefits	P	Teacher Recruitment & Retention
HB 183	Don Steinbeisser	Uniform notice for health insurance changes	P	Emp. Relations
HB 190	Cindy Younkin	Revise certain election laws	P	Elections
HB 193	Gary Branae	Payment to school district for each certified FTE	F	School Finance
HB 198	Carol Lambert	Clarify requirements for ballot language	P	Elections
HB 204	Bob Lawson	Affordable Health Insurance Act	F	Emp. Relations
HB 206	Cindy Younkin	Change driver's license fee -- distribution	P	School Finance
HB 207	Jesse Laslovich	Revise property tax assessments and certification dates	P	School Finance
HB 213	Dave Gallik	Housekeeping bill for retirement systems administered by MPERA	P	Emp. Relations
HB 223	Bob Lawson	Authorize state land sale proceeds for state land purchases	P	State Lands
HB 226	Kim Gillan	Graduated teen drivers license	F	Safety
HB 228	Michael Lange	Divert coal tax revenue for funding education	F	School Finance
HB 230	Ron Erickson	Revise time for payment of wages	P	Emp. Relations
HB 231	Karl Waitschies	Revise tax penalty and interest	F	School Finance
HB 264	Carol Gibson	Require elected county officials to comply with personnel policies	P	Emp. Relations
HB 266	Hal Jacobson	Revise law on telecommunication services for disabled	P	At-Risk Youth
HB 268	Ron Erickson	Eliminate phaseout of business equipment tax	F	School Finance
HB 269	Bob Bergren	Revise fire marshal laws	P	Safety
HB 274	Carol Juneau	Increase compulsory attendance to age 18	F	Accred/Curric
HB 275	Tom Facey	Revise assessment and taxation of certain improvements to real property	F	School Finance
HB 285	Roy Brown	Revise laws related to military status	P	Accred/Curric
HB 288	Ron Erickson	Rental car tax	F	School Finance
HB 302	Dave Lewis	School employee health insurance pool	F	Emp. Relations
HB 313	Cindy Younkin	Carryforward of school budgets	F	School Finance
HB 333	Karl Waitschies	Interest on county funds credited to fund invested	P	School Finance
HB 335	Holly Raser	Safety standards for public playground construction	F	Safety
HB 338	Jim Keane	Increase unemployment benefits	P	Emp. Relations
HB 345	Roy Brown	Revise treasure state endowment funding	F	School Finance
HB 355	Brad Newman	Increase cigarette tax and tobacco products tax	F	School Finance
HB 360	Dave Lewis	State employee voluntary termination incentive	F	Emp. Relations
HB 365	George Golie	Revise restrictions on public employee political activity	F	Emp. Relations
HB 366	Paul Clark	Certain school district trustees to meet quarterly	P	Accred/Curric



HB 374	Carol Gibson	Revise residency law for school enrollment purposes	F	School Finance
HB 375	Gary Matthews	Revise teacher retirement laws - return to work	F	Teacher Recruitment & Retention
HB 382	Jonathan Windy Boy	Repeal "English only" law	F	Accred/Curric
HB 400	Kim Gillan	Require school trustees to establish procedures for canceling meetings	F	School Finance
HB 410	Cindy Younkin	Revise work comp for de minimus travel reimbursements	P	Emp. Relations
HB 422	Carol Juneau	Indian hiring preference for reservation schools	F	Emp. Relations
HB 423	Carol Juneau	Authorize school board to implement "local preference" in hiring	F	Emp. Relations
HB 429	Dave Kasten	Create property tax exemption study committee	P	Appropriations
HB 434	David Wanzenried	Transfer money from state fund to general fund	F	Appropriations
HB 449	Tom Facey	District to adopt harassment, intimidation or bullying policy	F	Accred/Curric
HB 459	Roy Brown	Three-year averaging for school funding	F	School Finance
HB 495	Norma Bixby	Appropriate money for American Indian studies	F	Appropriations
HB 513	Debby Barrett	Clarify applicability of open meeting laws	F	School Finance
HB 524	Scott Mendenhall	License outdoor behavioral programs	P	At-Risk Youth
HB 537	Bob Lawson	Require study to recalculate annual sustainable yield on forested state lands	P	State Lands
HB 542	Eve Franklin	Revise occupational therapy practice laws	P	Accred/Curric
HB 563	Jeff Laszloffy	Revise election laws	P	Elections
HB 572	Dave Lewis	Braille teaching available in schools	F	Accred/Curric
HB 573	John Parker	Allow diabetes medication dispensation in schools	P	Safety
HB 594	Veronica Small-Eastman	Remove elements that Land Board considers when setting grazing lease rates	F	State Lands
HB 604	Dave Gallik	Distribute natural gas tax to school flexibility account	F	School Finance
HB 629	Jim Keane	State Fund to transfer \$14 million in FY2004 And FY2005 to general fund	F	Appropriations
HB 630	Alan Olson	Cap school trust land revenue and use funds for other education purposes	F	School Finance
HB 643	Joe Balyeat	\$3,000,000 general fund transfer to school flexibility account in certain case	F	School Finance
HB 650	Christopher Harris	Transfer \$90,000 from state fund to OPI for grant writing position	F	Appropriations
HB 662	Dee Brown	Minimum benefit allowance for teacher retired with less than 25 service years	F	Teacher Recruitment & Retention
HB 685	Scott Mendenhall	Youth in certain facility counted for ANB	F	School Finance
HB 694	John Sinrud	Revise nondisclosure of library records laws	F	Accred/Curric
HB 704	Dave Kasten	Authorize establishment of charter schools and charter school districts	F	Accred/Curric
HB 719	Alan Olson	Revise laws governing ballot measures	F	Elections

HB 722	Edith Clark	Provider tax on intermediate care facilities	P	At-Risk Youth
HB 726	Christine Kaufmann	Allow Medicaid funding for foster children under 21 years of age	F	At-Risk Youth
HB 732	Sandy Weiss	Increase minimum hourly wage rate	F	Emp. Relations
HB 736	Roy Brown	K-12 public school renewal commission	P	Appropriations
HB 742	Sandy Weiss	Fund summer youth tobacco prevention program	F	Safety
HB 744	Edith Clark	Implement refinancing of services through DPHHS	P	School Finance
HB 748	Ronald Devlin	Simplification of oil and natural gas tax distribution	P	School Finance
HB 760	Tom Dowell	Montana student citizen scholarships	F	Accred/Curric
HB 766	Carol Juneau	Revise video gambling machine taxes to fund certain programs	F	School Finance
HJ 2	Ronald Devlin	Revenue estimating resolution	P	Appropriations
HJ 6	Dee Brown	Urge federal government to fund educational mandates	P	School Finance
HJ 8	Carol Juneau	Study drop-out issues with regard to Indian students	P	Accred/Curric
HJ 10	Bob Lawson	Personal finance education in public schools	P	Accred/Curric
HJ 11	Frank Smith	Urge federal increase in impact aid for schools	P	School Finance
HJ 36	Jeff Pattison	Urge U.S. Supreme Court to overturn Pledge of Allegiance ruling	P	Accred/Curric
HJ 44	Nancy Fritz	Study health insurance coverage for schools	F	Emp. Relations
SB 6	Don Ryan	Require application of cash reappropriated to BASE aid	F	School Finance
SB 7	Edward Butcher	Exempt local elected officials from lobbyist registration fee	P	Emp. Relations
SB 16	Jeff Mangan	School district territory transfer	P	School Finance
SB 25	Jeff Mangan	Youth with serious mental health problems placed in appropriate treatment	F	At-Risk Youth
SB 41	Joe Tropila	Revise designation of school for deaf & blind	P	Appropriation
SB 42	Joe Tropila	Track educational services provided to sensory impaired children	P	At-Risk Youth
SB 43	Joe Tropila	Make optional fee for services collected by deaf and blind school	P	Appropriations
SB 44	Jerry O'Neil	Remove constitutional provision on equality of educational opportunity	F	Accred/Curric
SB 52	Dan Harrington	Wage and benefits for noncertified school employees during closures	F	Emp. Relations
SB 63	Corey Stapleton	Transfer funds to offset school district reappropriation rather than reserve	F	Appropriations
SB 66	John Bohlinger	Reduce the years of service required for PERS member to buy military service	P	Emp. Relations
SB 74	Bob Keenan	Use of state land for school building sites	F	School Finance
SB 76	Trudi Schmidt	Revise statutes to conform to federal IDEA	P	At-Risk Youth
SB 81	Mike Cooney	Honorary diplomas for certain veterans	P	Accred/Curric
SB 90	Sam Kitzenberg	Provide annual inflation-related adjustments to school base funding	F	School Finance
SB 92	Don Ryan	Three-year averaging of ANB	F	School Finance



SB 94	Emily Stonington	Extend multi-agency children's initiative	P	At-Risk Youth
SB 95	Emily Stonington	Revise child abuse and neglect laws	P	At-Risk Youth
SB 96	Sam Kitzenberg	Eliminate requirement for 180 school days	F	Accred/Curric
SB 97	Bob Story	Require submission of revenue amounts for retirement and transportation	P	School Finance
SB 108	Walter McNutt	Generally revise workers' compensation laws	P	Emp. Relations
SB 110	Ken Toole	Coordinate PERS status for PERS member elected to PERS covered office	P	Emp. Relations
SB 113	John Esp	Separate licensure of intermediate care facilities for developmentally disabled	P	At-Risk Youth
SB 120	Bill Glaser	Allow contracted services for school personnel	F	Emp. Relations
SB 130	Dan McGee	Revise laws on recreational use of trust land	P	State Lands
SB 142	Walter McNutt	Clarify relationship of public documents with electronic information systems	F	Emp. Relations
SB 145	John Bohlinger	Participants in federal volunteer programs to purchase PERS service	P	Emp. Relations
SB 165	Mike Cooney	Revise laws on breaking tie votes in elections	F	Elections
SB 196	Sam Kitzenberg	Schools notified by law enforcement of certain offenses by students	F	At-Risk Youth
SB 201	Linda Nelson	Exempt certain cooperative purchasing from bid requirements	F	School Finance
SB 202	Royal Johnson	Expand use of teacher certification fees	P	Appropriations
SB 205	John Cobb	Limit ability of school districts to join certain organizations	F	Accred/Curric
SB 212	Sam Kitzenberg	Mill levy election if school funding changed during fiscal year	F	Elections
SB 224	Sam Kitzenberg	Sales tax on goods for property tax relief, universities and teacher pay	F	School Finance
SB 228	Mike Taylor	Entity receiving funds from state to provide financial report upon request	F	School Finance
SB 256	Jon Ellingson	Revise property taxation of class eight business equipment	F	School Finance
SB 259	Bill Glaser	Statewide health insurance for K-12 schools	F	Emp. Relations
SB 267	Corey Stapleton	Teacher signing bonus program	F	Teacher Recruitment & Retention
SB 276	Don Ryan	Require state assessment test for nonpublic schools/home schools	F	Accred/Curric
SB 278	Edward Butcher	Require credit for certain post-secondary courses	F	Accred/Curric
SB 279	Edward Butcher	Allow person 19 years old or older to enroll in public high school	F	School Finance
SB 280	Edward Butcher	Limit remedial classes to certain MUS units	F	Accred/Curric
SB 282	Carolyn Squires	Revise workers' compensation laws	P	Emp. Relations
SB 294	Kelly Gebhardt	Revise interest rate applied to refund of protested property taxes	P	School Finance
SB 295	Edward Butcher	Revise laws for licensing minor drivers	F	Safety
SB 296	Mike Taylor	Revise election filing fees	F	Elections
SB 303	Bill Glaser	Modify school funding laws	F	School Finance
SB 305	Emily Stonington	Revise notice requirements for emergency rules	F	School Finance

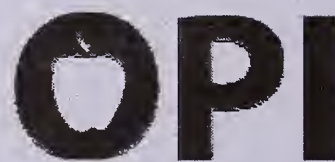
SB 307	Don Ryan	Revise school district investment laws	P	School Finance
SB 309	John Bohlinger	Increase school funding from cigarette tax and video gambling tax	F	School Finance
SB 310	Bill Glaser	Revocation of accreditation in certain instances	F	Accred/Curric
SB 313	Sam Kitzenberg	Allow school district to transfer general fund balance into miscellaneous programs fund	F	School Finance
SB 314	Bea McCarthy	Adjusting eligibility for CHIP	F	At-Risk Youth
SB 323	Duane Grimes	Revise school funding	F	School Finance
SB 333	Rick Laible	Fund education from coal bed methane taxes	F	School Finance
SB 346	Bob Keenan	Provide administrative support for multiagency children's system of care initiative	F	At-Risk Youth
SB 373	Rick Laible	Nonpublic schools allowed in certain organizations	F	Accred/Curric
SB 380	Keith Bales	Authorize formation of student banks	P	Accred/Curric
SB 382	Edward Butcher	Portability in teacher employment	F	Emp. Relations
SB 405	Rick Laible	Legislative Responsibility Act - restrict rules imposing fees	F	Appropriations
SB 407	Bob DePratu	Income tax reduction with revenue from limited sales tax	P	Appropriations
SB 409	Corey Stapleton	Development plan for Otter Creek tracts	P	State Lands
SB 411	Bill Glaser	Define Legislature's intent to provide a basic system of free quality schools	F	School Finance
SB 424	Linda Nelson	Revise school finance; increase school facility entitlements	P	School Finance
SB 433	Don Ryan	Soft drink tax for funding elder services, Medicaid, student assessments	F	School Finance
SB 441	Don Ryan	Allow school trustees to issue impact aid revenue bonds	P	School Finance
SB 447	Duane Grimes	Eliminate test for liability for disclosure of employee or former employee info	P	Emp. Relations
SB 453	Bob Keenan	Revising types of property in classes 9 & 13	F	School Finance
SB 454	Bob Story	Revise the schedule of block grants for schools	P	School Finance
SB 460	Bob Story	Revise definitions applicable to metal mines license tax	P	School Finance
SB 461	Bob Story	Mitigate effects of cyclical reappraisal	P	School Finance
SB 467	Jim Elliott	Adjustment of guaranteed tax base payments for successful property tax protest	F	School Finance
SB 485	John Cobb	Transfer some tobacco settlement proceeds to human services account	P	Appropriations
SJ 2	Don Ryan	Urge healthy school nutrition and physical activity	P	Accred/Curric
SJ 20	Dale Mahlum	Urge high schools to offer instruction in consumer education	F	Accred/Curric
SJ 26	John Bohlinger	Urge just compensation for impact of federal land ownership on public education funding	P	Appropriations
SJ 28	John Bohlinger	Interim study on school district organization	F	Accred/Curric











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